

Again, my congratulations to the Johnnies' mens' golf team. May their drives be long and straight and their putts roll true.

STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN
MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

REGARDING SCHOOL CHOICE

(By Kristy Lamb, Peter Hicks, Halie Paradee, and Nick Smith)

Kristy Lamb: School choice is an issue that our Vermont legislature is currently voting on. What we are here to discuss is how choice within school is as important as choice between schools, and its importance on all levels.

A school is made up of both faculty and students. As a part of that school, students should be allowed to help in the process of making decisions that affect us. Choices are made every day about scheduling, open campus, and many other things, but hardly ever are the students asked what they want and how they feel. It seems as if no one thinks our opinions are valid. But it is our education, it is our learning environment, so we should have a choice.

Peter Hicks: With this, we would like to have the statewide student body count as one vote in Vermont in the House of Representative.

Halie Paradee: And we would also like the student body to count as one vote in the local decision-making. And students should receive credits for hours on incentives for any involvement in the specific process, like being here today, we should be recognized for it by our school.

Nick Smith: I'm discussing another section of education reform. High school students across the state and nation have a serious lack of interest in interest and stamina in high school that has encouraged a serious look at education reform.

The average day of a high school student about is about seven hours long. This can be broken down into three parts: Six hours and 45 minutes of sitting, sometimes sleeping; 13 minutes of moving; and 2 minutes of actual decision-making. We are all familiar with the reading of boring books, reading the seemingly useless notes, hand cramps, headaches, and overall lack of stamina contribute to the long school day.

No matter how many hours of sleep the night before, a day like this is still tiring. What is the use of education if the student is not awake? One may go to school with a determined attitude to learn, but soon the constant work causes them to give in and see school as a tedious chore.

Opponents to the idea of recess will argue that free time will encourage tardiness, illegal behaviors, or longer days. But this isn't necessarily so. The proposed recess would consist of a small break, maybe 15 minutes in length, in which students could be somewhat free and active for one time in their day. This activity would result in the re-

talization of energy, creating a higher interest in the boring books and a higher stamina to take the seemingly useless notes. These measures will reduce the headaches and increase the effectiveness of education.

Students are often told the high school is preparing us for today's society. The President of UVM informed us this morning that choices are an important part of today's society. But how with can he prepare for reality if we're not given the chance to make choices for ourselves. How can the leaders of the group define themselves? How can we solve the rising problem of lower test scores and higher dropout rates? We can do it with a small reform reaping large benefits. We can do it with a 15-minute recess.

REGARDING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

(By Travis Buck)

TRAVIS BUCK: I am going to talk about genetically modified foods, and also their organisms.

Let's start out with a definition of what genetically modified organisms are, to make sure everyone knows what I'm talking about. They're plants that have been modified by inserting genes of another organism that's been engineered to change that original plant in some way.

GMOs are quite dangerous to the environment and peoples' health, and also to the rural economy of Vermont and other states. GMO studies have shown that they damage good insects that help plants grow, and create produce, and they also pollute the ground and transport genetic pollution to other plants around the area. And they create superweeds, and superweeds can't be killed by conventional chemicals, so you have this breed of plants that are taking over the crops.

And in human health, there are many risks, such as allergic reactions that are increased, and resistance to antibiotics. And antibiotics are—it's been a lot of genetically engineered plants and chemicals used in antibiotics, and people aren't as resistant to them. And there has also been some studies that proved that growth and internal organs of humans have been damaged due to the intake of genetically engineered products.

With GMO seeds, which are the main concern, it increases the cost of farming the seeds will be more expensive. And the seeds are going to make more food, but in the end, that will decrease the price of the produce, so the farmer can't make as much money, putting him or her in a hardship.

Other countries, many other countries, like Europe and Asia, look to the United States for the effects of genetically modified foods, and we have been sort of an experimental subject, without our consent, which is illegal and hasn't really been looked as an issue.

Many markets for the U.S. farmers have decreased significantly from the use of GMO products. The markets in Europe and Asia reject these products, seeing what has happened in the United States, and from their studies, they found they have harmful effects.

And another issue is, many people have said, or many companies say we need to, or the GMOs will help stop world hunger all over, and that is actually incorrect. Right at this point, we are producing more food per person than ever before, and all we need to do is make the food more accessible to the people that need the food, rather than trying to create more food, and wrongly use—create more food with genetically engineered products. It is not going to help anyone; it is just going to hurt the environment.

And a metaphor similar to this is that the Pandora's box has been opened, and now all these genetically engineered products and

foods and organisms have leaped out, and out there to do bad, in most cases. And it is very hard to put it back into the box. And if we would have waited many years and done studies to learn more about what the effects could be, it would be better, and we could bring the genetically modified foods out into the community with more knowledge, and it would help the community more than bringing them out so early, at this point.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ANDROS
UAW REGION 1-D

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated over 32 years to the United Automobile Workers, George Andros. As the director of UAW Region 1-D, his dedication and leadership have brought many families and communities together in an effort to educate and promote political action and community service. As members of UAW Region 1-D gathered together on May 18, 2002, they honored and shared memories of their friend and leader, George Andros.

George received one of the highest honors on June 14, 1995 when his peers elected him as the director of UAW Region 1-D at the Union's 31st Constitutional Convention. This was truly a sign of respect, as his friends acknowledged his hard work on behalf of the labor movement in the past and chose him to lead them in change in the future. He has served as director of UAW Region 1-D for over six years, and for that, he has my personal thanks and that of friends of labor throughout our state.

Back in 1969, George Andros began his life of dedication to bettering labor practices when he joined Local UAW 467 at the Delphi Chassis System as a journeyman toolmaker. His appointment as an International Representative in 1986 was a testament to the many hours he had put in as the chair of the shop committee, as the local's representative for master mechanic skilled trades and as the vice-chair of the Region 1-D Saginaw Area Skilled Trades Council. During this time he also served as a committee member for the Zone Committee, the Fair Employment Practices Committee and the Region 1-D Resolutions Committee.

George's leadership did not stop with the UAW. He has sat on the Board of Directors of U.S. Graphite Corp and the Board of Directors of Michigan United Way, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Blue Care Network of Michigan. He has been a role model for his community, and will continue to be one after his retirement, as a lifetime member of the NAACP, the Democratic party, and The National Council of Senior Citizens. George's achievements in political activism and community service will be remembered by the citizens of Michigan for years to come.

I applaud George Andros for his leadership and commitment, and thank him for dedicating his life to serving UAW Local 467 and UAW Region 1-D. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of service.